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a level of attention at which the information notified person is attracted attention, an object of attention to which the information notified person is attracted attention, identification information with which the information notified person is identified, the contents or amount of information, information concerning an apparatus used to notify information, and ambient information concerning the plurality of pieces of equipment.

3. An adaptive communication method according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of suspending notification of the information notified person of information according to the environment information.

4. An adaptive communication method according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of changing a condition for notification of the information notified person of information according to the environment information, changing the contents of information, changing the apparatus used to notify information, changing a range of information notification, changing a priority given to information notification, changing the frequency of information notification, and splitting the contents of notified information is carried out in order to determine the way of information notification.

5. Equipment forming a distributed system that consists of a plurality of pieces of equipment being interconnected over a transmission medium and including

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one or more arithmetic units and that notifies predetermined information, comprising:

5 a means for acquiring environment information, which indicates an environment in which the plurality of pieces of equipment is installed, at least a predetermined time earlier than the time instant at which the information is notified; and

10 a means for determining a way of notifying an information notified person of information according to the acquired environment information and the contents of information to be notified.

15 6. Equipment forming a distributed system according to Claim 5, wherein the environment information is at least one of time information concerning the ability of equipment, equipment information concerning equipment connected over the transmission medium, location information concerning the information notified person, a level of attention at which the information notified person is attracted
20 attention, an object of attention to which the information notified person is attracted attention, identification information with which the information notified person is identified, the contents or amount of information, information concerning an apparatus
25 used to notify information, and ambient information concerning the plurality of pieces of equipment.

7. Equipment forming a distributed system according to Claim 5, further comprising a means for

suspending notification of the information notified
person of information according to the environment
information.

8. Equipment forming a distributed system according to Claim 5, wherein the means for determining the way of information notification carries out at least one of changing a condition for notification of the information notified person of information according to the environment information, changing the contents of information, changing the apparatus used to notify information, changing a range of information notification, changing a priority given to information notification, changing the frequency of information notification, and splitting the contents of notified information.

9. A distributed system consisting of a plurality of pieces of equipment, which is interconnected over a transmission medium and includes one or more arithmetic units, and notifying predetermined information, wherein:

at least one of the plurality of pieces of equipment comprises:

a means for acquiring environment information, which indicates an environment in which the plurality of pieces of equipment is installed, at least a predetermined time earlier than the time instant at which the information is notified; and

a means for determining a way of notifying an

information notified person of information according to the acquired environment information and the contents of information to be notified.

10. A distributed system according to Claim 9, wherein the environment information is at least one of time information concerning the ability of equipment, equipment information concerning equipment connected over the transmission medium, location information concerning the information notified person, a level of attention at which the information notified person is attracted attention, an object of attention to which the information notified person is attracted attention, identification information with which the information notified person is identified, the contents or amount of information, information concerning an apparatus used to notify information, and ambient information concerning the plurality of pieces of equipment.

11. Equipment forming a distributed system that consists of a plurality of pieces of equipment being interconnected over a transmission medium and including one or more arithmetic units and that notifies predetermined information, comprising:

a memory in which programs are stored; and
a processor, connected to the memory, for,
based on the programs, acquiring environment
information, which indicates an environment in which
the plurality of pieces of equipment is installed, at
least a predetermined time earlier than the time

instant at which the information is notified, and
determining a way of notifying an information notified
person of information according to the acquired
environment information and the contents of information
to be notified.

12. Equipment forming a distributed system
according to Claim 5, wherein the environment
information is at least one of time information
concerning the ability of equipment, equipment
information concerning equipment connected over the
transmission medium, location information concerning
the information notified person, a level of attention
at which the information notified person is attracted
attention, an object of attention to which the
information notified person is attracted attention,
identification information with which the information
notified person is identified, the contents or amount
of information, information concerning an apparatus
used to notify information, and ambient information
concerning the plurality of pieces of equipment.

13. Equipment forming a distributed system
according to Claim 12, wherein said processor suspends
notification of the information notified person of
information according to the environment information.

14. Equipment forming a distributed system
according to Claim 11, wherein said processor carries
out at least one of changing a condition for
notification of the information notified person of

information according to the environment information, changing the contents of information, changing the apparatus used to notify information, changing a range of information notification, changing a priority given to information notification, changing the frequency of information notification, and splitting the contents of notified information.

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